



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, August 2006

Proposed Cleanup for Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School, San Diego, California

INTRODUCTION

You are invited to review and comment on a plan to clean up contaminated soil at the Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School Site (Site) located between Martin Avenue to the north, an alley to the south (situated between Greely and Logan Avenues), 31st Street on the west, and 32nd Street to the east in San Diego, California.

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is proposing to build a new school designed to relieve overcrowding at King Elementary School, Logan Elementary School and Perkins Elementary School. The school will accommodate approximately 700 students in grade K-5.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for overseeing the investigation and ensuring that mitigation and cleanup activities are conducted in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. SDUSD is responsible for site selection and purchase, site cleanup, and construction.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Site Description
- Previous Investigations
- Current Activities
- Proposed Cleanup Plan
- Protecting the community during cleanup
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Who to contact for more information

Public Comment Period: August 7, 2006 to September 6, 2006

The draft Removal Action Workplan and other related project documents are available for review and comments at locations listed on page 4. Please email or submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope **postmarked by September 6, 2006** to:

Stephanie Lewis
DTSC Project Manager,
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
or Email to: slewis1@dtsc.ca.gov

Community Meeting

DTSC will hold a community meeting to provide information about the environmental investigations, results, and the proposed soil cleanup. We encourage you to attend the meeting and share your questions and comments. **Spanish translations will be provided.**

Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2006, **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Location: Perkins Elementary School Auditorium
1770 Main Street
San Diego, California 92113



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Site is approximately 6.5 acres in size and consists of 31 parcels, which previously were residential properties, a school yard and vacant land. All structures have been demolished.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Between 2001 and 2003, SDUSD conducted environmental investigations at the site. These investigations revealed lead and arsenic contaminated soil which was cleaned up under the oversight of DTSC.

During the removal, additional contamination was discovered. In order to enable the district to begin necessary construction, DTSC granted a **partial site approval** and required additional investigation.

In 2005, the SDUSD conducted two additional environmental investigations to assess the remaining contamination. The following chart describes the amounts of contaminant found, and the clean up goals.

Contaminant Of Concern	Maximum Level Detected	Cleanup Goal
Lead	2300	255 ppm
Arsenic	31	7 ppm

The lead found at the Site is likely from undocumented fill material containing leaded glass. The lead contamination may have also come from the lead-based paint from the historical structures and is therefore expected to be limited to shallow depths. The arsenic came from undocumented fill material.

Based on the findings, a cleanup is recommended to reduce the contaminants in the soil.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

A **removal action** is being proposed to remove the arsenic and lead contaminated soil from this part of the Site. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that the removal is

performed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. The removal action is described in the Removal Action Workplan (RAW), available for public comment at this time.

PROPOSED CLEAN UP PLAN

Any clean up plan has to protect human health and the environment, have a reasonable cost and must be shared with the community.

The option recommended to meet these goals is to remove contaminated soil and transport to off-site disposal facilities.

The proposed plan involves use of construction equipment to dig out and remove approximately 1,562 cubic yards (2,343 tons) of contaminated soil that will be transported off-site. The approximately 118 truckloads will travel to one of three different locations (Otay Landfill, Copper Mountain Landfill and US Ecology Landfill) depending on whether the material is non-hazardous, hazardous, or has contaminants at level that requires special handling. The trucks will travel north on 32nd Street, make a left onto National Avenue, turn right onto South 43rd Street, merge onto I-805 South via the ramp to the Otay Landfill. To the Copper Mountain Landfill and U.S. Ecology Landfill the trucks will travel north on 32nd Street, turn right on Ocean View Boulevard, merge onto CA-15 north via the ramp.

After the soil is transported to an approved off-site disposal facility, clean fill soil will be imported to fill the excavated areas.

When the excavation work is complete, sampling will be conducted to confirm that the arsenic and lead contaminated soil has been reduced to acceptable levels.

PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY DURING CLEANUP

The following are some of the safety measures needed to control exposure to arsenic and lead

contaminated soil during the cleanup:

- Access to the Site will be restricted to authorized personnel.
- Where necessary, wind screens will be attached to the temporary fencing prior to start of the on-site activities.
- During excavation activities, work hours will be limited to reduce impacts to local traffic.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the Site.
- The excavated soils/materials will be loaded into transport trucks and the trucks will be covered.
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to control dust.
- Water will be sprayed on soil after it is loaded into the trucks to further control dust.
- The air will be monitored at the Site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels.
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover any stock-piled soil that may have to be left on the site prior to transporting it offsite.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

DTSC is required to review all environmental cleanup activities under the CEQA, which asks a series of questions about the possibility of significant effects on the environment. DTSC has prepared a **draft Notice of Exemption (NOE)** for the proposed plan.

The NOE document states that the removal action will **not** have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the short duration, the controlled manner in which the relatively small volume of arsenic and lead contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks, and transported off-site for disposal.

NEXT STEPS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RAW. The 30-day public comment period begins on August 7, 2006 and ends on September 6, 2006, during which time you can review and send your comments and/or questions on the proposed cleanup option.

Your comments must be postmarked by September 6, 2006 and sent to: Stephanie Lewis, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. Please take a moment to fill out the attached comment form. We would very much like to hear your thoughts.

Prior to making a final decision on the proposed plan, DTSC will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. DTSC will then prepare a "Response to Comments" document. Anyone who submits comments with their address will receive a copy of this document. Additionally, a copy of the Response to Comments document will be placed in the information repositories.

If the proposed plan is approved, cleanup is expected to begin September 2006 and is estimated to take 45 days.

Explanation of Significant Differences

The DTSC prepared an Explanation of Significant Differences documenting changes in the original Removal Action Workplan (RAW). During implementation of the RAW (November 2003 and May 2005), approximately 4,118 tons (2,745 cubic yards) of lead and arsenic contaminated soil was removed from Area 1, 3 and 4. The original estimate of 544 tons (363 cubic yards) was exceeded due to the discovery of lead and arsenic contaminated soil on residential parcels (Area 3 and 4) in its fill material.

Project Documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Logan Heights Branch Library 811 South 28th Street San Diego, California 92113 Phone: (619) 533-3968 Hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday	Central Library 820 E Street San Diego, California 92101 Phone: (619) 236-5800 Hours: 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday	DTSC 1011 N. Grandview Avenue Glendale, California 91201 Contact: Jone Barrio Phone: (818) 551-2886 Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
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WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding the DTSC environmental investigation or cleanup activities, please contact:

- Stephanie Lewis, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2847, email: SLewis1@dtsc.ca.gov
- Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (818) 551-2917, email: Makula@dtsc.ca.gov. DTSC Toll Free #: 1-866-495-5651.
- Media Contact: Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176, email: Jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

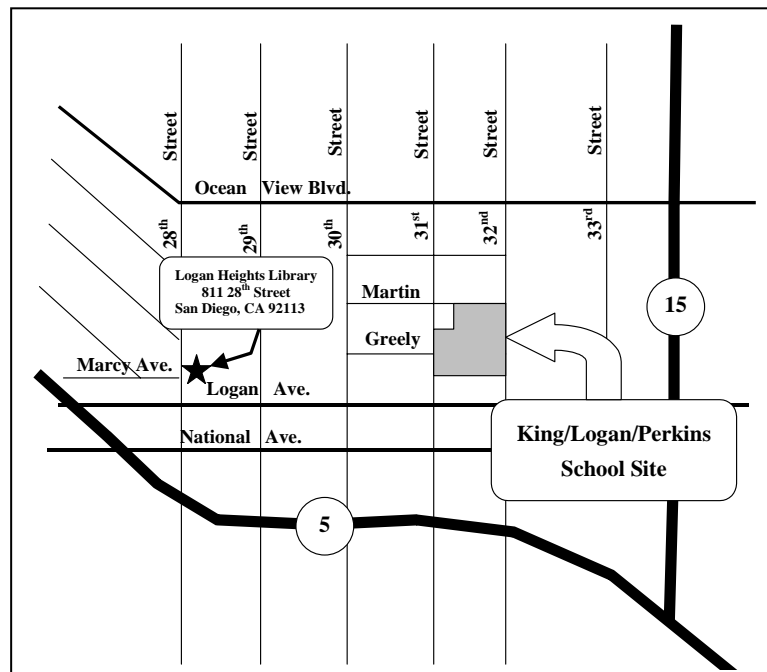
Si desea informacion en espanol, comuniquese con:

- Javier Hinjosa, de el DTSC, al (818) 551-2172, email: JHinjosa@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC web site: www.dtsc.ca.gov

SDUSD Contact:

Julie Katsapis, Environmental Coordinator, at (858) 573-5720



Meeting Accessibility and Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

For information on meeting accessibility or to request reasonable accommodations, and to obtain additional information about the Site, please call the California State Replay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD) or call Ms. Maya Akula, at (818) 551-2917.